

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (Original) A method for detecting a data cartridge in a cartridge engaging assembly,  
2 comprising:
  - 3 emitting a signal from a signal emitter on the cartridge engaging assembly into a chamber
  - 4 formed within the cartridge engaging assembly;
  - 5 detecting at least a portion of said emitted signal when said emitted signal is reflected
  - 6 from the data cartridge; and
  - 7 generating output to indicate whether said data cartridge is present in said cartridge
  - 8 engaging assembly based on said detected signal.
  
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein emitting the signal is at least during start-up.
  
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein emitting the signal is at least during power-up  
2 of the cartridge-engaging assembly.
  
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising focusing said signal for detection.
  
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising deciphering a color of said data  
2 cartridge based on said detected signal.
  
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) A data cartridge detection system, comprising:
  - 2 a cartridge engaging assembly for receiving a data cartridge therein;
  - 3 a signal emitter ~~operatively associated with~~ mounted to said cartridge engaging assembly,
  - 4 said signal emitter producing a signal that is reflected by the presence of the data cartridge within
  - 5 said cartridge engaging assembly; and
  - 6 a signal detector operatively associated with said cartridge engaging assembly, said signal
  - 7 detector being responsive to the reflected signal ~~produced by said signal emitter and for~~
  - 8 indicating that the data cartridge is present in said cartridge engaging assembly.

1    7. (Original) A data cartridge detection system, comprising:  
2        means for receiving a data cartridge therein;  
3        means for emitting a signal positioned on said means for receiving; and  
4        means for detecting said signal when said signal is reflected from the data cartridge, said  
5        means for detecting mounted to said means for receiving, wherein said means for detecting  
6        generates output to indicate whether said data cartridge is present in said means for receiving  
7        based on said detected signal.

1    8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said means for emitting comprises a light  
2        source.

1    9. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein said means for detecting comprises a light  
2        detector.

1    10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
2        detecting a signal reflected from a data cartridge in a picker assembly; and  
3        moving the picker assembly after a loading operation [[only]] if the detected signal  
4        indicates the data cartridge is engaged in the picker assembly.

1    11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, further comprising moving the picker  
2        assembly after an unloading operation [[only]] if the detected signal indicates the data cartridge  
3        is disengaged from the picker assembly.

1    12. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising determining a color of the data  
2        cartridge.

1    13. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising identifying a type of the data  
2        cartridge.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising identifying a type of the data  
2 cartridge based on a color of the data cartridge.

1 15. (Currently Amended) A media storage system comprising a signal detector responsive to  
2 a signal emitted into a picker assembly, said signal detector indicating during a loading operation  
3 that a data cartridge is engaged in said picker assembly, wherein before said picker assembly is  
4 movable between different locations in the media storage system can be moved.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The media storage system of claim 15, wherein said signal  
2 detector indicates during an unloading operation that the data cartridge is disengaged from said  
3 picker assembly ~~before said picker assembly can be moved.~~

1 17. (Currently Amended) The media storage system of claim 15, further comprising a  
2 processor determining when the data cartridge is engaged in said picker assembly.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The media storage system of claim 15, further comprising a color-  
2 deciphering component determining a color of the data cartridge in said picker assembly.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The media storage system of claim 15, further comprising a  
2 processor identifying a type of the data cartridge.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The media storage system of claim 15, further comprising a  
2 processor identifying a type of the data cartridge based on a color of the data cartridge.

1 21. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising moving the cartridge engaging  
2 assembly between first and second positions in response to the generated output indicating that  
3 the data cartridge is present in the cartridge engaging assembly.

- 1    22. (New) The data cartridge detection system of claim 6, wherein the cartridge engaging
- 2    assembly is movable between different locations within a media storage system in response to
- 3    the reflected signal.
  
- 1    23. (New) The data cartridge detection system of claim 6, further comprising a computer
- 2    board on the cartridge engaging assembly, the signal emitter mounted on the computer board.
  
- 1    24. (New) The data cartridge detection system of claim 6, wherein the signal detector is
- 2    adapted to detect a color of the data cartridge.
  
- 1    25. (New) The data cartridge detection system of claim 6, wherein the signal detector is
- 2    adapted to detect a characteristic of a surface of the data cartridge.